

## CLAIMS

- Sub 1*
1. An information management system comprising a directory server which is connected to a service manager, with the service manager being adapted to manage information for directory enabled components whereby the service manager is adapted to read/write information to the directory server in response to specific entity profiles.
  2. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the entity profile comprises a base profile.
  3. An information management system according to claim 2 in which the base profile also further comprises an extension profile.
  4. An information management system according to claims 2 and 3 in which the entity profile comprises a combination of one or more base profiles and extension profiles.
  5. An information management system according to claims 2, 3 or 4 in which the end user is dynamically associated with infrastructure and applications via one or more base profiles and extension profiles.
  6. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS comprises a Virtual Private Directory or domain management capability.
  7. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS provides an open Interface Manager for the creation, deletion or modification of information or entity profiles that are used with online service systems through stories.
  8. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS provides a trigger mechanism for the creation, deletion or modification of

information outside of the directory server thus enabling information distribution to billing systems, databases and workflow management.

9. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS provides a reporting mechanism for information.
10. An information management system according to claim 1 which provides information in a directory for the allocation of IP addresses, gateway and DNS server configuration to a workstation via a directory enabled DHCP server.
11. An information management system according to claim 1 that provides for the management of configuration information for access control to an online services system.
12. An information management system according to claim 1 that requires authentication of entities prior to the provision of services to an entity using an online service system.
13. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS can be scaled by the addition of further APS components to provide a global infrastructure for a computer network system.
14. An information management system according to claim 1 in which the APS provides a user guide to communicate the function of the computer system to a user.
15. An information management system substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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